

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1, 5, 12, and 20 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) The chopper of claim ~~3~~ 4, wherein the shock absorber comprises an elastomeric body.
3. (Currently Amended) A food chopper comprising:  
a housing for receiving a food item,  
a blade assembly including a blade and moveable within the housing for chopping the food item,  
a shaft attached to the blade assembly for movement therewith,  
a plunger assembly coupled to the shaft for effecting reciprocating and rotational movement thereof,  
and a shock absorber disposed between the plunger assembly and the shaft ~~The chopper of claim 4,~~ wherein the shaft has an axial bore formed in an end thereof, the plunger ~~has~~ having a post coaxially received in the bore, and the shock absorber ~~is being~~ disposed between the post and an inner end of the bore.
4. (Original) The chopper of claim 3, wherein the post has a recess in an inner end thereof, the shock absorber having a portion receivable in the recess.
5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) A food chopper comprising:  
a housing for receiving a food item,  
a blade assembly including a blade and moveable within the housing for chopping the  
food item,  
a shaft attached to the blade assembly for movement therewith,  
a plunger assembly coupled to the shaft for effecting reciprocating and rotational  
movement thereof,  
a shock absorber disposed between the plunger assembly and the shaft, and  
structure for latching the plunger assembly to the shaft, the structure including ~~The~~  
~~chopper of claim 5, wherein the structure includes snap-fittable interlocking flanges respectively~~  
~~formed on the plunger assembly and the shaft.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The chopper of claim 3 ~~4~~, wherein there is a threaded connection between the shaft and the blade assembly.

8. (Currently Amended) A food chopper comprising:  
a housing for receiving a food item,  
a blade assembly including a blade, the blade assembly reciprocable and rotatable within the housing for chopping the food item,  
a shaft threadedly connected to the blade assembly for movement therewith,  
a plunger assembly coupled to the shaft for effecting reciprocating and rotational movement thereof, and  
cooperating structure on the shaft and on the blade assembly for indicating when the shaft has been threadedly engaged with the blade assembly in a mounted condition, the cooperating

structure including a bifurcated end on the shaft, and including a recess on the blade assembly for receiving the bifurcated end.

9. (Previously Presented) The chopper of claim 8, wherein the blade assembly includes a cylindrical neck which is threadedly connected to the shaft.

10. (Previously Presented) the chopper of claim 9, wherein the neck is a hollow tubular construction which is internally threaded for threadedly receiving the shaft therein.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).